

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EUR-25 RSR-01 /154 W

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R 300639Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3650

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 6160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS, IR

SUBJECT: HEAD OF IRAN DELEGATION TO ICCS

REF: STATE 170946; SAIGON 15390

1. THIS EMBASSY WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS GRATITUDE TO SAIGON AND TO DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR MOST HELPFUL INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON CIRCUMSTANCES AND OPERATING CONDITIONS IRANIAN ICCS ELEMENTS WILL ENCOUNTER IN VIET-NAM. SAIGON'S CABLES HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY HELPFUL AND GOI IS MOST GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN DONE TO ASSIST IT IN ASSUMING ITS ICCS RESPONSIBILITIES. IF INQUIRIES WE HAVE SUBMITTED THUS FAR HAVE SOMETIMES NOT BEEN OF A COMPREHENSIVE CHARACTER, THIS IS THE WAY THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY FROM IRANIANS AS GOI GETS DEEPER INTO ICCS AND WHAT IT IMPLIES FOR IRANIAN HUMAN RESOURCES.

2. WE OF COURSE SHARE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY DEPARTMENT AND SAIGON THAT IRAN DELEGATION TO ICCS, AND PARTICULARLY ITS LEADER, BE STRONGEST PEOPLE THAT CAN BE FOUND. IN DEALING WITH MFS LIAISON OFFICER HATEF ON ICCS MATTER, POLCOUN HAS PERSISTENTLY STRESSED NEED FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP, POLITICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE QUALITIES ON PART OF IRANIAN PERSONNEL. DURING AUGUST 28 CALL ON PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA ON A NUMBER OF MATTERS, AMBASSADOR HELMS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IRANIANS WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OFFER BY

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EXPERIENCED CANADIANS TO BRIEF IRANIANS ON ICCS. THE AMBASSADOR

STRESSED THAT IRAN FACES DEMANDING JOB IN SOUTH VIET-NAM WHICH REQUIRES TOUGH AND HARD PERSONNEL TO HANDLE PROPERLY. HE NOTED THE FACT OF AMBASSADOR SADRI'S APPOINTMENT TO HEAD IRANIAN ICCS TEAM AND HOPED THAT SADRI FULLY UNDERSTOOD JUST WHAT A DIFFICULT TASK HE AND IRAN FACED IN VIET-NAM. THE AMBASSADOR'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT HOVEYDA FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND APPRECIATED POINTS AMBASSADOR HAD MADE. DURING CHARGE CALL ON MFA UNDERSECRETARY FO POLITICAL AFFAIRS FARTASH AUGUST 30, HE WILL ALSO POINT UP NEED FOR STRONGEST POSSIBLE IRANIAN PERSONNEL ON ICCS.

3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BELIEVE EMBASSY HAS DONE ABOUT ALL IT APPROPRIATELY CAN TO ASSURE THAT IRANIANS UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE UP AGAINST IN VIET-NAM. TO GOT FURTHER AT THIS TIME MIGHT RUN RISK OF OFFENDING THE GOI. A POINT THAT NEEDS TO BE UNDERSTOOD IS THAT IRAN STILL HAS ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF HIGHLY SKILLED AND TALENTED PEOPLE. THIS WAS ONE OF REASONS FOR EMBASSY'S EARLIER RESERVATIONS ABOUT ASKING IRAN TO TAKE ON THE ICCS ROLE. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IRAN WANTS TO ENHANCE ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION BY DOING A GOOD JOB ON ICCS. THIS BEING THE CASE, WE EXPECT OVERALL CALIBER OF IRANIAN ICCS TEAM TO BE ABOUT THE BEST THIS COUNTRY CAN FIELD, IN ITS FIRST VENTURE EVER INTO THIS KIND OF EXERCISE.
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